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Terms of Reference

Consideration of the possible transfer of the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in the Canal Zone shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The impact of the U.S. military presence in the Canal Zone on U.S. interests in Panama, and particularly on our ability to negotiate a mutually satisfactory Canal Treaty, or otherwise reach an accommodation on the Canal issue;
2. A reassessment of the missions of SOUTHCOM in light of current U.S. political and security interests. This assessment should consider:
 - A. The diplomatic, military, and political role and impact of the Command in Panama and Latin America, including reviews by all appropriate, concerned Latin American country teams;
 - B. If available, the impending SRG consideration of interdepartmental response to National Security Study Memorandum 173 of March 7, 1973;
 - C. The alternative recommendation to disestablish SOUTHCOM, particularly as previously addressed in
 - 1) Deputy Secretary of Defense Packard's recommendation to the President of March 15, 1971, and
 - 2) The Department of State (S/IG) Inspection Report of the U.S. Embassy in Panama of December 1972.
 - D. The impact of recent third nation criticism of excessive U.S. military presence in the Canal Zone.
3. The projected costs of transfer to an alternate location or disestablishment of SOUTHCOM.

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